(d) the efforts made by Government in this direction and by when these seamen are expected to be brought back?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERWANI): (a) to (d) A merchant navy vessel, MV Kasuga-II, registered in Panama and being managed by Univan Ship Management Limited, Hongkong, was involved in a collision with a Taiwanese fishing boat on 5 February, 1996 and 17 nautical miles off the coast of Taiwan. Only one of the twenty nine crew members on the fishing vessel was reported to have survived — four crew members were killed and twenty four others reported missing. All twenty nine crew members of MV Kasuga-II were detained for questioning by the Taiwanese authorities when it reached the port of Keelung. On 17 February 1996, twenty six of these twenty nine crew members were released. The Captain of the ship, Captain Rajkumar Goel, the Third Officer Shri Yoganarasimha Dodla and the Quarter Master Shri Aravind Kumar V. Tandel were charged with the offence of abandonment under Article 294 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of Taiwan. The case was tried by the Keelung District Court. In its judgement delivered on 19th July, 1996 the Court acquitted Shri Aravind Kumar V. Tandel and sentenced Captain Goel and Shri Dodla to 4½ years imprisonment.

The Univan Ship Management Company appealed against the judgement to the High Court in Taiwan. In its judgement on 30 September, 1997, the High Court upheld the judgement of the Keelung District Court but reduced the sentence of imprisonment in respect of both Captain Goel and Shri Dodla to 4 years.

As is known, the Government of India does not recognise the so-called Republic of China on Taiwan nor does it have diplomatic relations with that entity. In the framework of our one-China policy, Government are taking steps to promote trade, investment and tourism with Taiwan. A non-official body called India-Taipei Association has been set up which maintains an office in Taipei, Taiwan. Through the good offices of the India-Taipei Association in Taipei, contact was maintained with the Captain and other crew members of MV Kasuga-II throughout the period of their detention and the court proceedings. The Director General of the India-Taipei Association office in Taipei as also other representatives of that office attended the court proceedings in person and otherwise rendered necessary assistance to the Indian crew members. Messrs Univan Ship Management Company were in direct touch with the Directorate General of Shipping, Ministry of Surface Transport, Government of India in regard to the substantive aspects of the case since this is the subject matter of the Directorate General of Shipping.

Taiwan is not a signatory to the Law of the Seas Treaty of 1982. At the trial stage, however, a plea was made that the Taiwanese Court did not have jurisdiction over the case since the incident took place beyond the territorial waters of 12 nautical miles. The Court considered this plea and decided that "according to the passive nationality principle and the objective territorial principle", Taiwan has jurisdiction over this case. The court also held that the deaths took place in the territory of Taiwan and in terms of Article 3 and Article 4 of its Criminal Code, Taiwanese authorities had jurisdiction in the matter.

Government have received a petition from Messrs Univan Ship Management Company seeking Government's assistance in getting these two persons released. In view of the fact that the matter has been dealt with by a Court of Law, one possible course of action available to the management company is to seek a review by the High Court of its judgement. The return to India of the two seamen will depend upon the decision of the High Court in case a plea of this nature is accepted by the High Court.

Implementation of National Child Labour Programme

*40. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rs. 850 crore National Child Labour Programme announced by the then Prime Minister from the ramparts of Red Fort on Independence Day in 1994 has been implemented;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the said programme, the amount allotted for the implementation of the programme, year-wise, since then; and

(c) the details of the progress so far made in the implementation of the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) Under the programme announced by then Prime Minister on 15.8.1994, an estimated 2 million children working in hazardous occupations were proposed to be withdrawn from work and rehabilitated by putting them in special schools with provision for non-formal education, vocational training & supplementary nutrition, etc. at an estimated cost of Rs. 850 crore. Rs. 34.4 crores and Rs. 56.00 crores were made available for the programme during 1995-96 and 1996-97 respectively. For the current financial year, an allocation of Rs. 78.43 crores has been made for the programme. So far 76 National Child Labour Projects have been set up under the programme for the rehabilitation of 1.5 lakh children working in hazardous occupations. As per the available information, around 1.05 lakh children have been put into the special schools set up under the programme.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Uranium deposits in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh

156. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any uranium deposits have been found in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the exploration of these deposits is economically viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Uranium deposits have been located at Labmapur-Yellapur near Nagarjunasagar in Nalgonda District and Tummalapalle in Cuddapah District of Andhra Pradesh. Reserves of about 1700 tonnes of uranium oxide have been established and existence of an additional 3300 tonnes is inferred in Lambapur-Yellapur, where the average grade is 0.07% U308. About 15000 tonnes of grade 0.05% U308 reserves have been established in Tummalapalle region. Recently, a promising uranium occurrence has also been located at Gogi in Gulbarga District of Karnataka where investigations are at a preliminary stage.

(c) It is too early to comment on the economic viability of the deposits.

Inspection of Nuclear Power Reactors

157. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to allow inspection of nuclear power reactors to international experts;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether permission to foreign experts for inspection is going to adversely affect our nuclear installations;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to review their decision; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (e) No, Sir. Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL) which is a member of the World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO) has voluntarily sought a peer review of the indigenously built Kakrapar Atomic Power Station by the experts of WANO as a confidence building measure. Such peer reviews have nothing to do with safeguards inspections as undertaken by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and are conducted in nuclear power plants world-wide. Indian experts have also participated in the WANO Peer Reviews in other countries. Such peer reviews would serve to enhance India's image in the field of nuclear power and would help the process of international cooperation in nuclear safety. Such